

News- SOCIAL Letter ACTION

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Church and Community Clinics

In his recent book, *The Community and Christian Education*,* Dr. Swearingen points out that "If the church is to fulfill its function as an institution or movement within the community, it must know its community: its needs, its resources, its problems, and all the positive and negative influences within it which bear upon the lives of its inhabitants."

This statement describes clearly the basic reason underlying the program of Church and Community Clinics being projected by the Department of Social Welfare. The first is to be held at Henderson, Ky., November 13, 14, 15. An effort will be made to show how the program of the church can be integrated with those of other organizations and agencies in the community so that together they may combat the problems of crime, disease, inadequate housing, juvenile and adult delinquency, disintegration of home life, bad government and many other anti-social forces that plague community life.

Ministers and church leaders from southern Indiana, eastern Illinois, western Kentucky and northern Tennessee are invited to participate in this two-day conference.

The area of the local church facing the problems of a modern society will be opened up in an address on Monday evening by Dr. John L. Mixon, professor, College of Religious Education, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago.

Most of Tuesday will be devoted to presentations and discussions of community agencies. Representatives of the courts, child welfare agencies, character-building organizations, the schools and the PTA, as well as rural organizations will describe the program each carries for the welfare of the constituency it aims to serve. Points in the programs where the church can best make its unique contribution will be stressed.

A church's community outreach will be discussed in an address on Tuesday evening by Mr. James D. Wyker, noted rural community pastor and Extension Professor of Rural Life, Bible College of Missouri. Mr. Wyker will augment his address with sound film and slides.

The final session of the clinic will be concerned with planning a program of action in the local church. R. E. M.

* The Bethany Press, St. Louis, Mo. \$2.

D.P.F. Annual Meeting

The annual dinner meeting and election of officers of the Disciples Peace Fellowship was held in the Youth Center Lounge of the First Christian Church at Oklahoma City on Thursday evening, October 12, in connection with the International Convention. With this meeting the DPF completed 15 years of service in the cause of peace.

Following its custom, two after-session meetings were held at First Methodist Church, presenting on Wednesday evening, October 11, Dr. Nels F. S. Ferre, of Vanderbilt School of Religion, who gave a most interesting discussion of the theological bases of pacifism, and Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa, who, despite five previous engagements in the city during the day, held about 100 DPF members spell-bound as he outlined the political situation in the Far East and its relation to Europe and the Communist issue.

Voting Records Mailed

A document showing how all 96 Senators and the 435 members of the House voted on sixteen major issues has been mailed to a selected list of pastors, state secretaries, directors of religious education, state secretaries of CWF and members of state commissions on Christian action and community service.

The record is published by the legislative committee of the Congregational Christian Council for Social Action, the Council on Christian Social Progress of the Northern Baptist Convention, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church.

Additional copies may be secured from the Friends National Committee on Legislation, 1000-11th St. N. W., Washington 1, D. C. at 10c per single copy.

The dinner-business meeting was attended by 86 persons. The executive secretary-treasurer reported a balance on October 1, 1949, of \$533.56, with receipts of \$641.95. Expenditures during the year, including \$200 contributed to the Church and Peace Conference at Detroit, \$100 to the Kagawa Fund, printing of DPF folders, membership fees transmitted to the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and miscellaneous expenditures (postage, telephone and telegrams, etc.), leaving a balance of \$438.27 as of October 5, 1950.

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Disciples Face Color Question

When a resolution was introduced at the Centennial Convention in 1949, asking that inclusion of all races in the membership of the churches be made the first goal of the second century of our organized work Disciples of Christ were brought face to face with the implication of the various resolutions on this subject which the convention has passed in recent years. In short, Disciples of Christ were asked to say frankly whether their resolutions advocating interracial fellowship and goodwill were simply pious declarations or whether they were really intended to be taken seriously.

At this point the Department of Social Welfare entered the picture and asked to have the resolution referred to it for study and report. After a year of study and planning the department reported to the convention assembly at Oklahoma City, pointing out that the convention in 1946 had approved the action of the Federal Council of Churches taken in March, 1945, renouncing the pattern of segregation in all its activities, including membership, worship, fellowship and service and calling upon its constituent communions to do likewise. This resolution was re-affirmed in 1947. In view of these and other similar statements by the convention, the department saw no reason why the 1949 resolution should not be approved, but pointed out that resolutions are of little value unless they are supported by plans of action.

The Department of Social Welfare therefore requested that reference of the resolution be continued and that it be authorized to initiate a program of study and action designed to bring all of our churches to face the imperatives in the situation on the basis of the teaching and example of Jesus, the teaching and practice of the New Testament church, and the exigencies of the social situation which we face today.

The report caused surprisingly little debate in the Committee on Recommendations and was accepted almost unanimously by the convention. In fact, the subcommittee of the Committee on Recommendations which handled the report added five additional recommendations—that the report be approved, that previous resolutions dealing with the question be re-affirmed, that the substance of the Cincinnati resolution be adopted, that the Department be directed to publicize that fact.

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U. S. Policy for Korea

Now that the military phase of the Korean affair seems to be nearing its end the problem of What Next is most urgent. The Administration insists that the solution of this problem lies with the United Nations.

Ambassador Warren R. Austin, chief of the United States delegation presented the American policy in an address to the General Assembly on September 30. Following his emphasis that "the future of Korea is, in a special and unique sense, the responsibility of the United Nations," the Ambassador insisted that the problem of peace includes a far-reaching social and economic program of reconstruction, and saying, "Let us make the United Nations the world's construction agency."

He summed up the policy of his government in the following words:

"First: Establishment of a free, independent, united country.

"Second: Establishment of a strong United Nations Commission to consult with all appropriate authorities and individuals and to make recommendations for carrying out the unification process.

"Third: Selection of representatives of the Korean people in free elections conducted under the auspices of the United Nations Commission.

"Fourth: Consultation with the Government of the Republic of Korea in all matters pertaining to the future of Korea.

"Fifth: Vigorous United Nations efforts to assist the reconstruction and development of Korea.

"Sixth: The retention of the United Nations Forces in Korea only as long as is necessary for the achievement of United Nations objectives.

"Seventh: Elimination of special privileges for any nation and the development of friendly relations with all.

"And Eighth: Admission of Korea to the United Nations and assumption by her of the obligations, duties and privileges of membership."

This statement was an endorsement of a draft resolution submitted by Australia, Brazil, Cuba, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines and the United Kingdom.

Washington Round-Up

Looking Backward. The "lame duck" Congress which reconvenes on November 27 may suffer some embarrassing reflections about legislation passed during its amazing case of election jitters just prior to the campaign recess. Most notable was the McCarran-Wood "Communist Control" measure which passed the House by the overwhelming vote of 350 to 20, and the Senate 70 to 7. A measure of the hysteria which gripped Washington during the debate on this legislation can be seen in the fact that it received the support of liberals like Senator Humphrey of Minnesota and Senator Douglas of Illinois. Both, however, joined Senator Langer in a futile effort to sustain the President's veto of the bill. Of the original seven who voted against the bill, characterized by the American Civil Liberties Union as a most serious threat to civil liberties, Senator Taylor (Idaho) and Graham (N. C.) had already been defeated in the primaries. The remaining five are Murray (Mont.), Lehman (N. Y.), Green (R. I.), Leahy (R. I.), and Kefauver (Tenn.). Leahy faces a tough contest for re-election. Lehman's chances have been enhanced by the publication of a letter indicating that his Republican opponent received promises of financial aid if he would retire from the gubernatorial race in favor of Governor Dewey and seek election to the Senate. Senator Lehman has already announced that he will seek repeal or modification of the measure when Congress reconvenes. The President's veto was based upon advice of the Department of Justice and other government agencies that the measure will hinder rather than help efforts to control Communist activities. The Department is proceeding, however, to enforce its provisions calling for registration of the Communists, Communist organizations, and "Communist front" groups.

Fair Deal Holiday. The 81st Congress took a holiday from the Fair Deal. Throughout both sessions liberal Senators and Representatives fought a rear guard action against reactionary measures. Rarely did the liberals gain the offensive. Their major contribution consisted in the stopping of some crippling legislation.

Early in the second session the Kerr Natural Gas Bill passed both houses and was finally stopped by a Presidential veto. The bill would have exempted certain oil and gas corporations from federal regulation. The veto was sustained despite the pressure of the utilities lobby. Legislation was passed legalizing the "Pittsburgh Plus" price fixing in the steel industry. This practice permits all steel to be sold as though it were shipped from Pittsburgh, regardless of where it was produced. Thus, a West Coast pur-

chaser must pay the Pittsburgh price, even though it is delivered from a steel plant across the street. Civil Rights was another casualty when the Senate defeated attempts to invoke cloture to stop a filibuster by Southern Senators. Fear of Communism and the possibility that Franco Spain might be the last beachhead on continental Europe in case of a Communist invasion, plus the pressure of Senator McCarran and the Spanish lobby in Washington, served to put through the bill authorizing a loan of \$100 million to Franco. However, the President has impounded the money, which was included in a regular appropriation bill, basing his action on the ground that the action violates American foreign policy. (Incidentally, the first application of McCarran's Anti-Communist law was to deny visas to a group of Spanish Falangists seeking to enter the U. S.—Ed.) Point IV legislation barely squeezed through with a token appropriation of \$35 million. Such widely heralded Fair Deal reforms as repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and the National Health Program received but little consideration.

Looking Forward. Price controls will receive prompt attention when Congress reconvenes. Legislation enacted in the closing days of the session did not include an excess profits tax and left many loopholes for speculators. An effort was made to include provisions that would have barred speculative profits on the Korean war, but it was defeated. Because of this food speculators will continue to make millions and the cost of living will continue to rise. Lard speculators are reported to have made profits of more than \$450 million. An amendment which would have curbed excessive profits was defeated in the House when Representatives Bolton and Weichel, both of Ohio, switched their votes.

Taxes. The failure of Congress to enact effective price control legislation will result in increased taxes. Appropriations made on the basis of the pre-Korean price structure are now considered by the Defense Department to be inadequate. Because of price increases the appropriation for F-86 jet planes will now buy 750 fewer than in April, 1950.

Defense. The President's request for a 3 million man army will also be on the Congressional agenda after the election. Selective Service Director Hershey has already alluded to the necessity of drafting married men in the 19-26 age bracket. In this he is supported by the new Secretary of Defense, General Marshall. UMT seems destined to be supplanted by UMS, the old Prussian system of drafting youths and putting them into the army for training alongside regular soldiers.

—Robert A. Fangmeier.

On Social Frontiers

The Same Old Story. At Bisbee, Arizona a 25-year-old discharged railroad worker was recently condemned to death on the charge of murdering a 68-year-old woman in the lower berth of a speeding train. Admitted in evidence was a statement made by the accused upon his arrest on the morning of the discovery of the crime. He stated that he had boarded the train at Tucson without a ticket, entered the berth occupied by the victim and attempted to rape her. When she resisted and screamed, he grabbed her by the neck and choked her to death. When asked by the prosecutor, "Why did you do it?" he replied, "Because I was drunk."

The amazing part of the story is not that this sort of crime has happened on railway trains a number of times in recent years, but that the American people can be so complacent about the increase in liquor-caused crimes of every description that clog the dockets of our criminal courts. An innocent woman is slain on a pullman car, where she ought to have been safe, and a 25-year-old man is sent to ignominious death for a heinous crime that was caused by liquor that turned him into a raging, lustful brute. Back of these tragedies stands some distiller who manufactured the product that stole away his brain, some tavern operator who profited from the sale of the drinks, and the state of Arizona (it might have been your state) that licensed the sale. In the background stand the newspapers, magazines, the billboards and other media that advertise the stuff—and yes, the citizens whose votes permit the traffic to continue.

Hitch your profits to a star! Corporate profits, which stood at \$5 billion in 1939, reached a total of \$17 billion in 1949 and went up to an annual rate of \$19 billion in the first half of 1950, according to *Economic Outlook*. The estimate for the second half of 1950 raises the total to \$23.3 billion. The net working capital of all U. S. corporations has risen from \$32.3 billion in 1941 to \$69 billion as of March, 1950, despite the cry about high wages and high taxes. In 1948 corporations paid out \$7.5 billion to shareholders in dividends, but retained \$13.4 billion undistributed profits. In 1949 they paid shareholders \$7.8 billion, but retained \$9.2 billion in their treasuries. In other words, in 1949 they paid only 46 per cent of their profits as dividends and kept 54 per cent back.

General Motors' profits for the first half of 1949 were \$303 million; for the same period 1950, \$485 million. General Electric, \$46 million for the first half of 1949; \$77 million for the first six months of 1950. Several corporations have more than doubled their profits over last year.

"God and the Nations"

One of the hopeful signs of the times is the agonizing search by men of goodwill for the purposes of God and the meaning of events in these perilous days. To understand present events in the light of God's purpose, and to fashion a workable policy in human affairs on the basis of this purpose is the peculiar responsibility of Christians. Such a policy must rest on both fact and faith. The fact is that complex skein of political economic and social affairs in which we all move, and the faith is "that we must worship the Lord our God and serve Him only."

This is the framework of a significant new book, edited by Dr. Paul Newton Poling, executive secretary of the Department of Social Education and Action of the Presbyterian Church U. S. A. *The five chapters are somewhat uneven, the second and the last being so closely condensed that they may present some problems to the average reader. But either of the other three will more than compensate in clarity, and in constructive suggestions for action.

Professor Harry Rudin of Yale University addresses himself in the first chapter to the problem of security. "Man is capable of almost any brutality when he has lost his sense of security." We live in a day when this has happened. It happened politically when the internationalism of the nineteenth century was reversed in the first half of the twentieth toward a moribund nationalism. It happened economically when, in keeping with this trend, nations undertook to solve their economic problems within narrow national areas where resources were quite inadequate for the needs of the peoples. And it happened militarily, when insecure nations vainly sought to regain their security by great national military establishments. Our real security depends upon our ability to reverse each of these three tendencies. This is the gist of Dr. Rudin's analysis.

The second chapter deals with the relations between Russia and the United States by one of the world's best informed students of Russia, Vera Micheles Dean, research director of the Foreign Policy Association. She challenges us to ask "first, exactly what it is we oppose about Russia and Communism; and, second, whether the things we oppose can be remedied by military force or call for other methods of treatment." To discover constructive answers to these questions, Mrs. Dean holds that we must first rid ourselves of our present, often unreasoning and hysterical fear of Russia

* *God and the Nations*. Doubleday & Co., 1950. \$2. Available through Sales Literature Section, The United Christian Missionary Society, 222 S. Downey Ave., Indianapolis, Ind.

Assurances for Volksdeutsche

Under the amended Displaced Persons Act, provision has been made for the admittance of some 54,000 Ethnic or Volksdeutsche Germans.

These people are persons of German blood who formerly resided in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Rumania and Yugoslavia where they were born and had lived as ethnic minorities. After the end of hostilities they were forcibly sent to Germany or Austria and are now a part of the great army of refugees without home or native land.

Voluntary agencies are being looked to by the U. S. DP Commission for assistance in finding homes for these German ethnics. Church World Service is asking its sponsoring bodies to submit special Volksdeutsche assurances and has appealed to the Disciples of Christ to take their share. Accordingly, the Department of Social Welfare which has been charged with the responsibility for the resettlement of displaced persons, has submitted a blanket assurance for 100 Volksdeutsche families.

R.E.M.

Even in This Day!

Dr. Hugh A. Brimm, executive secretary of the Social Service Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, writing in *Light*, the monthly publication of the Commission, tells of the late Harvey G. Woodward, a wealthy former resident of Birmingham, Ala., whose will provided \$3 million for the establishment of a boys preparatory school near Birmingham, but stipulated that "members of the Ethiopian or Negroid races shall not be employed as house or culinary servants or in the buildings of the school, or on the grounds, except as common laborers and then only if necessary." The board of governors is directed to give preference in admitting students to "(1) those with English or British ancestry; (2) those best fitted; (3) those born in Alabama, in the order named. No pupil, except those of British ancestry, shall be admitted unless his father and mother were both natural born citizens of the United States and unless such parents were of Caucasian or the white race . . . No Jew or Hebrew, referring to his race, not his religion, shall be admitted . . ."

Dr. Brimm points out that such brilliant people as Dr. Ralph Bunche, Dr. George Washington Carver, Miss Marian Anderson, and other outstanding scientists, artists and professional people would not be permitted to work here even as servants. "It is pathetic," says Dr. Brimm, "to realize that should He come as a lad to Birmingham, our Lord would find the doors of this institution slammed in His face."

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Disciples Face. . .

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and that reports of progress continue to be made to subsequent assemblies of the convention.

Under the authorization of the convention the Department proposes to set up groups representative of all sections and points of view within the brotherhood to seek ways and means whereby the race and color barriers to Christian fellowship, worship, and service in our churches can be eliminated. The goal is not arbitrarily to make every congregation interracial in membership, but rather to develop the spirit of Christian fellowship to the point where race and color will not be a barrier to those who desire such fellowship. The scandal of our American Christianity is not that Negroes, Orientals, Latin-Americans, and other persons of color do not belong to white congregations, but that they *cannot* belong to them. The question is especially pertinent in view of the fact that the early church received into its fellowship without discrimination Jews, Greeks, Romans, Ethiopians and other nationalities. It was the one institution in that ancient world that broke down walls of partition and declared that "There can be neither Jew nor Greek, there can be neither bond nor free, there can be no male and female, for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Paul reiterates this principle again and again in his writings.

It is clearly recognized that the International Convention has no legislative authority and that its recommendations to the churches is only advisory, but it is also true that moral and spiritual imperatives carry their own authority. That authority the churches will not ignore.

D.P.F. Annual. . .

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Harold L. Lunger, chairman of the nominating committee presented the following nominations for officers and executive committee for the ensuing year:

President, James A. Lollis, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Vice President, Charles Dietze, Henderson, Kentucky.

Executive Secretary-Treasurer, James A. Crain, Indianapolis

Executive Committee—the officers and Mrs. R. A. Doan, Miss Rose Wright, Robert Gemmer, Walter W. Sikes, Indianapolis, Ind.; Mrs. Rosa Page Welch, Miss Helen Spaulding, Chicago, Ill.; Harold L. Lunger, Tucson, Ariz.; Miss Elizabeth Hartsfield, Lexington, Ky.; Harry C. Monroe, Fort Worth, Tex.; Floyd Faust, Columbus, Ohio.

Vatican Challenged on Religious Liberty

The Roman Catholic Church has been asked to "take a clear stand" on whether she does or does not believe in religious liberty for minority church groups in countries with a predominantly Catholic population. This challenge was issued by representatives of 19 Protestant churches in Belgium, Spain, France, Italy, and Switzerland, meeting at Torre Pellice, Italy, September 25-28, in a special conference convened by the Department of Inter-church Aid of the World Council of Churches.

The Protestant churchmen stressed the "particular importance" of a definition of Roman Catholic attitude on the religious freedom provisions of the Declaration of Human Rights which has already been endorsed by authoritative Protestant groups. Pointing out that the attitude of Roman Catholics on religious liberty differs from place to place and country to country, the 80 delegates asked that Vatican policy be clarified.

The Protestant churches in Spain, said the conference, "suffer because they are denied the most elemental rights of a religious freedom worthy of that name." They noted that religious liberty is guaranteed in the Italian Constitution and demanded that legislation be enacted at an early date to give force to the guarantee. In Portugal the Protestant churches are subjected to intolerant treatment both by law and practice in spite of constitutional guarantees.

Pointing out that in several nations local administrations proceed in defiance of legal principles, the conference said:

"The members of the conference are further convinced that the question of religious freedom is by no means merely a question of legal guarantees, but rather one of spiritual attitude, convention and public morality." In some places, say these European Protestants, are to be found a responsible element in the Catholic clergy who favor complete religious freedom and who denounce the use of the power of the State or any other organization to curb the liberty of other religious bodies. Over against these, they find others who proclaim the Roman Catholic Church as the sole depository of truth and which must therefore claim freedom for itself alone and insist that the State shall not permit legal existence to what it regards as error.

The members of the conference "faced with these two divergent positions, express their conviction that it is exceedingly desirable that the Roman Catholic Church take a clear stand in this matter."

Whether or not the Vatican replies, the statement will not be ignored in Catholic circles.

J.A.C.

God and. . .

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and Communism"; second, we must "distinguish between Russia as a national state," with which we must continue to do business, and Communism; and third, we must oppose Russia on the ground of her violations of good relations between states and within states, rather than her choice of an economic system.

In the third chapter Dr. Walter W. Van Kirk, executive secretary of the Federal Council of Churches' Department of International Justice and Goodwill, deals with the problem of national sovereignty and world government in the most illuminating fashion. Those who are confused about the various proposals for world government, federal union and proposed revision of the UN, and the want to think about these both in terms of Christian pronouncements and political facts will find this chapter adequate. Christian principles require us to work for a world system of law in which such sovereignty is delegated by nation states as is necessary for the common good. But Christians must also work at a deeper level than that of legal structure; namely, that of creating mutual confidence and good will.

In many ways the fourth chapter, by the brilliant diplomat and former international banker, James P. Warburg, is the most important in the book. His criticism of our present policy is that "we are permitting fear of war and preparation for war so to preoccupy our minds and so to preempt our resources that we are prevented from making our maximum effort toward peace." Peace must be built primarily on the economic level, in the view of this financier. And the essential foundations for such economic peace and security require "a cooperative, world-wide plan of reconstruction and resource development," channelled through the United Nations and financed largely by governments, of which the United States must be the chief. Upon such foundation private capital will build mutually profitable enterprises.

The final chapter is by the eminent sociologist of Harvard University, Dr. Pitirim A. Sorokin, who as a Russian philosopher statesman suffered imprisonment first under the Czar and then under the Bolsheviks. Although his analysis here has little of value as treatment for our ills, he offers a diagnosis of the sickness of the world which Christians will find most illuminating.

A study guide to accompany this book is promised soon. Those church groups which want to do some honest and sustained thinking about the way to peace will find this one of the year's most helpful resources.

W.W.S.